



August 2019

## **MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019, AT 8.30 PM, IN THE NEW SEACOURT HALL, BOTLEY.**

Present: Councillor D Kay (Chair) and Councillors, Potter, Berrett, Fairclough, Bolder, Bastin, Dowie, Jones, Mackeith, Rankin, Dykes and Church.

In Attendance: C A Ryde, Clerk to NHPC, and a member of the public

### **19/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

No apologies had been received.

### **19/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **19/57 COUNCIL MATTERS.**

Councillor Kay provided an update on the current position regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

With the production of his final report the Independent Examiner had completed his involvement in the process. The next possible options were:

- Withdrawing the Plan completely (i.e. return to square 1).
- Accept all of the changes made by the Independent Examiner and move to a referendum, with the amended Plan then hopefully adopted before year end.
- Persuade the Vale to challenge specific changes made by the Examiner to Policies EE3, TR3, TR4, TR5, UT2 and BU1, and attempt to have them reversed or amended with the requirement of further public consultation and the appointment of a different Examiner to review just these issues, which would result in a delay of up to 6 months.

Whilst the Vale Planners were encouraging Council to pursue the second option as the default, the Neighbourhood Plan volunteers recommended that the 3<sup>rd</sup> option was pursued as it would have no major downsides, with a delay being considered of relatively low importance given the five years already taken to reach this stage. Their viewpoint was that all sensible efforts should be made to take a Plan to referendum which is as close as possible to the submitted version as regarding the major issues identified above. Other longer-term possibilities for resolving some of these major issues via the Local Plan or an SPD are also being investigated with the Vale alongside the Neighbourhood Plan route.

Councillors were also reminded of a commitment made in the NHPC Climate Change Policy to support the Neighbourhood Plan Team “in retaining all of the elements relevant to climate change and carbon neutrality contained in the version of the Plan submitted to the VoWHDC”, which relates to Policy UT2.

Councillor Kay PROPOSED and Councillor Mackeith SECONDED the appointment of Councillor Rankin to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee which was unanimously AGREED.

Council AGREED unanimously that Councillor Kay should write to The VoWHDC, requesting an extension of the deadline to the end of September 2019, to enable discussions with the planners; challenging aspects of the Independent Examiners Decisions. Councillors Rankin and Kay were deputed to progress this issue and report back to Council.

### **19/58 DATES OF FUTURE MEETING: 12/09/19.**

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.